

Juniata Shops, Machine Shop No. 2
East of Fourth Avenue at Third Street
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-232-G

HAER
PA,
7-ALTO,
4-6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

JUNIATA SHOPS, MACHINE SHOP NO. 2

HAER No. PA-232-G

Location: East of Fourth Avenue at Third Street, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Altoona, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.721550 N.4490040

Date of Construction: 1917-18

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad
Lewis F. Shoemaker & Co., Contractors

Present Owner: Conrail

Present Use: Manufacturing Railroad Rolling Stock

Significance: The Machine Shop No. 2, used for the repair and construction of locomotive tenders, was essential to the operations of the Juniata Shops.

Project Information: This project was undertaken by HAER in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project as part of an architectural survey covering a nine-county region in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Randall Cooley, Director. See HAER No. PA-108, Pennsylvania Railroad, Altoona Works, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania for further project information and documentation.

Compiler: Peter Stott, Historian
Gray Fitzsimons, Editor

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History:

Presently called Machine Shop No. 2 this two-story brick building was constructed in 1917-18 to serve as a Tank Shop for the repair and construction of locomotive tenders. The building originally measured 304' x 84' in plan. A 1918 photograph (Altoona Public Library #5,191) of the "New Tank Shop" shows the newly completed building. It contained eighteen bays, and was highlighted by triple sets of double and triple hung steel sash. The building was three bays wide. A small terra-cotta plaque with the date "1917" was placed in the shallow gable end facing the transfer table. At the opposite end stood an open storage yard within a five-bay open steel-frame to carry an overhead traveling crane. Drawings in the PRR: Engineering Office files at Juniata credit the construction of the building to Lewis F. Shoemaker & Co. of Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

The PRR used this building as a tank shop for about eight years. In 1925 the old erecting shop took over tank repairs, and the Tank Shop was converted into a machine shop, where heavy machining was carried out. Subsequently, the PRR constructed a new Tank Shop next to the Steel Car Shop.

Sources:

Baxter, W.W. "Pennsylvania Railroad Reconstructs Juniata Shops," Railway Review 30 (January 1926), pp. 226-231.
Grimshaw, Fred G. "The History of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in Blair County," Chapter XXII in George A. Wolf, ed., Blair County's First Hundred Years, 1846-1946 (Altoona: The Mirror Press, 1946).